Vol. 34, pp. 63–66 March 31, 1921

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

FOOD HABITS OF SCELOPORUS GRACIOSUS GRACIOSUS (BAIRD AND GIRARD).

BY HERBERT J. PACK.

A few years ago the writer collected about seventy specimens of the common sagebrush swift, *Sceloporus graciosus graciosus* (Baird and Girard) for a study of its food habits. The stomach contents of these lizardsh ave been examined and the results are tabulated below. Most of the lizards were taken on the foothills northeast of Salt Lake City, while a few were secured in the western part of the city and ten miles to the north in Bountiful. All were taken in the month of August, except as noted in the following table. This is a numerical, not a percentage, table.

The examination of the stomach contents thoroughly substantiated the common belief that this lizard is insectivorous and beneficial. The chief item of food was found to be the red-legged locust, *Melanoplus femur-rubrum*. This was the smallest and most abundant grasshopper in the localities from which lizards were collected. It is surprising to note the great number of lizards, 69 per cent, that had eaten one or more of these locusts. The next insects in importance were ants. In quantity these are relatively unimportant in comparison with grasshoppers. Among the few beneficial insects eaten must be mentioned lady beetles which were taken to a limited extent by 11 per cent of the lizards. The occurrence within a stomach of vegetable matter or grains of sand was only occasional, and undoubtedly was taken in accidentally with food.

These brief observations remind one of the fact that in the scheme of nature this lizard occupies a place of no little importance.

STOMACH CONTENTS OF SCELOPORUS GRACIOSUS GRACIOSUS (B. AND G.).

Sex.	No.	Orthoptera.	Coleoptera.	Hymenoptera.	Miscellaneous Insects.	Spiders.	Unidentified Animal matter.	Vegetable matter.	Sand.	Notes.
♀	1						x			juvenile
♂	2				1 unid. larva					juvenile
♀	3	2 Melanoplus femur-rubrum	2 ground beetles			1				
♂	4			1 ant	2 (unid.)					juvenile
♀	5	1 "	1 (unid.)							
♀	6	1 "		1 bee		1				
♂	7	1 "								
♀	8	1 "			1 (unid.)					
♀	9		1 lady beetle						1 grain	
♂	10						x		1 grain	
♀	11	2 "		15 ants						
♂	12		1 (unid.)	4 ants						
♀	13	1 "					x			
♀	14	1 "							3 grains	
♂	15	1 "								
♂	16	1 "		1 ant			x		1 grain	
♂	17			1 bee, 3 ants						
♀	18	1 "		1 bee					1 grain	
♂	19	1 "								
?	20	1 "								
♂	21	1 "								
♂	22		3 lady beetles							
♀	23	1 "	2 (unid.)							

♂	24	1 Melanoplus femur-rubrum								
♀	25	1 "								
♀	26			1 bee, 1 ant	2 larvae (unid.)			x		
♂	27	1 "		2 ants	1 (unid.)				1 grain	
♂♀♀	28		2 flea beetles	1 ant						
♀	29				1 (unid.)					
♀	30	1 "								
♂♂♀	31			40 ants	1 Hemiptera					
♂♀	32		1 (unid.)	1 ant						
♂♂	33			2 ants			x			
♂♂♀	34	1 "		5 ants				x		
♀	35				4 (unid.) 32 aphids					juvenile
♀	36		1 lady beetle	1 bee, 6 ants	6 (unid.)					
♂♂	37			3 bees, 8 ants	2 (unid.)					
♂♂♀	38	2 "	1 snout beetle	3 ants						
♀	39	1 *Cammula pellucida*				1				
♀	40									Not killed until hours after collecting.
♂♀	41									"
♀	42									"
♀	43	1 Melanoplus femur-rubrum							1 grain	
♂	44	1 "			2 (unid.)					
♀	45	2 "								
♂♂	46	1 "	1 (unid.)	3 ants						
♂♂	47			3 ants	2 unid. larvae					juvenile
♂♂	48	2 "								
♂♂	49	2 "			1 (unid.)				1 grain	
♀	50	1 "			8 aphids				2 grains	
♂	51	2 "		1 ant			x			

Sex.	No.	Orthoptera.	Coleoptera.	Hymenoptera.	Miscellaneous Insects.	Spiders.	Unidentified Animal matter.	Vegetable matter.	Sand.	Notes.
♀	52	1 Melanoplus femur-rubrum	1 unid. larva 1 lady beetle	5 ants			x			
♂	53	2 "		15 ants						
♂♂♂	54	1 "	1 unid. larva	33 ants	1 aphid					
♂♂	55	2 "		1 bee, 17 ants	1 (unid.)					
♀♂♂	56							x		
♀	57	1 "		1 ant				x	3 grains	Contained 5 eggs, avg. size 13 x 7.5 mm. June 15.
♀	58	1 "	1 lady beetle		1 (unid.)			x		Contained 3 eggs, slightly smaller than above. June 15.
♀	59	3 "		1 bee, 1 ant	2 Hemiptera 1 Diptera					2 of the 3 M. f. r. were nymphs
♂	60	1 "								
♀♀♂	61	1 "			1 leaf hopper				2 grains	
♀♀♂	62	1 "	2 lady beetles		1 unid. larva					
♂♂	63	2 "							1 grain	
♀♂♂	64	3 "			1 Hemiptera					
♀	65	1 "	1(unid.) 1 lady beetle	8 ants	1 Hemiptera 2 leaf hoppers					
♀	66	1 "	2 lady beetles							
♀♀	67	1 "		1 ant						Head of foxtail 1 in. long in intestine
♂	68	1 "	1 ground beetle	5 ants						
♂	69	1 "		1 bee, 3 ants	1 (unid.)	1				
♀♀	70	3 "				1				1 of the 3 M. f. r. was nymph
♀	71	1 "								